

Message Text

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ACTION AF-08

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CU-04 AID-05 PC-05 SY-05 SCCT-01 DHA-02

SCSE-00 SCA-01 A-01 CCO-00 FBOE-00 OC-06 OMB-01 OPR-02

USSS-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 USIA-15 IO-13

/111 W

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R 111415Z AUG 76

FM AMCONSUL DURBAN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2313

INFO AMEMBASSY PRETORIA

AMCONSUL JOHANNESBURG

AMCONSUL CAPE TOWN

UNCLAS DURBAN 0386

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINS, SHUM, SF

SUBJ: SPORADIC SCHOOL VIOLENCE CONTINUES IN NATAL, TRANSKEI

1. AS REFLECTION OF LARGER SCALE VIOLENCE ELSEWHERE, SPORADIC INCIDENTS, MOSTLY INVOLVING FIRES, HAVE OCCURRED AT NATAL GOVERNMENT AND MISSIONARY-RUN AFRICAN SCHOOLS OVER THE PAST SEVERAL WEEKS. WITH VARYING DEGREES OF SUCCESS STUDENTS ATTEMPTED TO BURN SEVERAL SCHOOL BUILDINGS IN NORTHER NATAL, PINETOWN NEAR DURBAN AND KOKSTAD IN EAST GRIQUALAND. A FEW OTHER INCIDENTS, SUCH AS STONING OF SCHOOL BUILDINGS AND RIOTOUS BEHAVIOR, HAVE BEEN REPORTED AT DURBAN AREA AFRICAN SCHOOLS AND POLICE HAVE ARRESTED SEVERAL YOUTHS ALLEGEDLY INVOLVED IN ARSON ATTEMPTS.

2. THOUGH STUDENT VIOLENCE IN NATAL HAS NOT RIVALLED THAT ON THE RAND, IT NEVERTHELESS PROVOKED SEVERAL STATEMENTS BY KWAZULU CHIEF MINISTER GATSHA BUTHELEZI WHO URGED STUDENTS TO DESIST FROM BURNING SCHOOLS ON GROUNDS THEY SERVED THE NEEDS
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OF THE AFRICAN COMMUNITY. BUTHELEZI CAUTIONED STUDENTS THAT

THEY WERE DESTROYING THEIR OWN FUTURE AND WARNED THAT THEY MIGHT SOON BE CONFRONTED BY A BACKLASH FROM RESPONSIBLE ELEMENTS OF THE BLACK COMMUNITY. WHILE SIMULTANEOUSLY SCORING THE SOUTH AFRICAN GOVERNMENT FOR ITS INABILITY TO DEAL EFFECTIVELY WITH THE POST-SOWETO SITUATION, BUTHELEZI PUBLICLY DEPLORED THE "ARROGANCE" OF BLACK YOUTH ENGAGING IN SENSELESS DESTRUCTION AND, ON AUGUST 9, CALLED FOR THE ESTABLISHMENT OF VIGILANTE GROUPS TO PROTECT BLACK PROPERTY AGAINST THOSE BENT ON DESTRUCTION.

3. UNIDENTIFIED ARSONISTS EARLY AUGUST 11 ALSO SET FIRE TO ST. JOHN'S COLLEGE, TRANSKEI'S SCHOOL FOR PROMISING BLACK STUDENTS. THIS WAS FIRST REPORTED INCIDENT OF ARSON TO TAKE PLACE IN TRANSKEI HOMELAND.
FARBER

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